

Application No.: 09/989,932
Date of Response: 7/26/2005
Reply to Action of: 05/25/2005

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for licensing time-based software
5 comprising the steps of: loading time-based software onto a client machine, wherein said time-based software requests user information including an amount of time requested by the user for using said time-based software and connects to an authentication server through a network and submits said user information to an the authentication server
10 through a network; determining if the user is approved, wherein if the user is approved, further comprising the step of: the authentication server activating the time-based software for an amount of time approved; thereafter disconnecting from said authentication server, wherein if the user uses the time-based software for less than the amount of time
15 approved, the user crediting any remaining amount of time back to the authentication server.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein if the user is not approved, further comprising the step of sending a rejection message back to the software.
- 20 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining if the user is approved further comprises the steps of: matching the user information with a user account stored in said authentication server: and checking the user account for a time credit amount, wherein the user is approved if the user information matches the user account and the time
25 credit amount is greater than zero.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said user information includes a user name and a password.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises the
30 Internet.

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7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[4]]~~, wherein the step of the time-based software submitting user information to the authentication server further comprises submitting order information to the authentication server, said order information comprising a software product ID and a client machine IP address.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[7]]~~, wherein the time-based software displays a log-in access box for requesting the user information, the log-in access box including a balance checking feature for allowing the user to check a total amount of time remaining in a user account.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein if the user is approved, further comprising the step of updating a time credit amount in the authentication server.
10. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein if the time credit is greater than or equal to the amount of time requested, the amount of time approved comprises the amount of time requested.
11. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein if the time credit is less than the amount of time requested, the amount of time approved comprises the time credit.
12. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readably by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by machine to perform the method steps for licensing time-based software comprising the steps of: loading time-based software onto a client machine, wherein said time-based software requests user information including an amount of time requested by the user for using said time-based software and connects to an authentication server through a network and submits the user information to an ~~the~~ authentication server ~~through a network~~; determining if the user is approved, wherein if the user is approved, further comprising the step of: the authentication server activating the time-based software for an amount of time approved; thereafter disconnecting from the authentication server, wherein if the user uses the time-based software for less than the amount of time approved, the user reconnecting

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the time-based software to the authentication server and crediting any
remaining amount of time back to the authentication server.

13. (Original) The program storage device of claim 12, wherein the step of
determining if the user is approved further comprises the steps of:
5 matching the user information with a user account stored in said
authentication server; and checking the user account for a time credit
amount, wherein the user approved if the user information matches the
user account and the time credit amount is greater than zero.
14. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 12, wherein
10 said user information includes a user selected user name and a user
selected password.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Original) The program storage device of claim 12, wherein the network
comprises the Internet.
- 15 17. (Original) The program device of claim 12, wherein if the user is approved,
further comprising the step of updating at time credit amount in the
authentication server.
18. (Original) The program storage device of claim 12, wherein the step of the
time-based software submitting user information to the authentication
20 server further comprises submitting order information to the authentication
server, said order information comprising a software product ID and a
client machine IP address.
19. (Original) The program storage device of claim 12, wherein the time-based
software displays a log-in access box for requesting the user information
25 the log-in access box including a balance checking feature for allowing the
user to check a total amount of time remaining in a user account.
20. (Original) The program storage device of claim 13, wherein if the time
credit is greater than or equal to the amount of time requested, the amount
of time approved comprises the amount of time requested.

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21. (Original) The program storage device of claim 13, wherein if the time credit is less than the amount of time requested, the amount of time approved comprises the time credit.
22. (Currently Amended) A system for licensing time-based software comprising: a time-based software loaded onto a client machine for requesting user information from a user including an amount of time requested by the user for using said time-based software; and an authentication server for connecting to said time-based software and receiving said user information from said time-based software, wherein said authentication server determines if the user is approved, wherein if the user is approved, the authentication server activates the time-based software for an amount of time approved requested; thereafter disconnecting the time-based software from the authentication server, wherein the time-based software remains activated for the amount of time requested while disconnected from the authentication server, wherein if the user uses the time-based software for less than the amount of time approved requested, any remaining amount of time is credited back to the authentication server by the user reconnecting the time-based software to the authentication server and crediting the remaining amount of time.
23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the authentication server determines if the user is approved by matching the user information with a user account stored in said authentication server, and checking the user account for a time credit amount, wherein the user is approved if the user information matches the user account and the time credit amount is greater than zero.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the authentication server further receives order information from the time-based software, said order information comprising a software product ID and a client machine IP address.

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26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[2223]], wherein the time-based software displays a log-in access box for requesting the user information, the log-in access box including a balance checking feature for allowing the user to the check a total amount of time remaining in a user account.
27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[2226]], wherein if the user is approved, further comprising the step of updating a time credit amount in the authentication server.
28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[2327]], wherein if the time credit amount is greater than or equal to the amount of time requested, the amount of time approved ~~comprises~~ consists of the amount of time requested.
29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[2328]], wherein if the time credit amount is less than the amount of time requested, the amount of time approved comprises the time credit amount.
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the user is determined to be approved independent of a time and date the user makes the request for using said time-based software.
31. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 12, wherein the user is determined to be approved independent of a time and date the user makes the request for using said time-based software.
32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[2229]], wherein the user is determined to be approved independent of a time and date the user makes the request for using said time-based software.